

I. Dever

1875 - About Podophyllum Peltatum Indications

"From an Eclectic standpoint, there is scarcely a malady to which flesh is heir, that may not be alleviated by this remedy. We once heard Prof. L. E. Jones, of the Eclectic college, of Cincinnati, exhaust the whole catalogue of diseases in naming the various uses of this wonderful drug. We say "wonderful," for such it really is when prescribed with reference to the law of similars, for, in looking over its disease-producing effects, we find it peculiarly adapted to many diseases of our climate, among which, we will call your attention to our autumnal fevers attended with gastric, or bilious symptoms.

I once cured a case of bilious remittent fever with this remedy, in which I found the following symptoms:

The patient had a dull, throbbing headache, when awaking in the morning, with dread or fear that he would be very ill; dry mouth, with bad taste; heavy, dirty white coating on the tongue. Preceding the paroxysm of fever there was nausea and vomiting of a bilious substance, accompanied with first a yellow, and then a greenish, watery, offensive diarrhoea. During paroxysm the patient was stupid, inclined to talk, but would drop a sentence before half finished. Great thirst; hot face; protruding eyes, and continued talking; finally, sleep with sweat. *Pod.* 6000. No more paroxysms.

Podophyllum, like all other remedies, is indispensable when indicated by a train of symptoms peculiar to itself, and at this time of the year they are often found in bowel difficulties, both of children and adults, but more especially of children, and is characterized by the following symptoms: Diarrhoea, stools yellow, hot, watery, and contain undigested food, or they will be thin, passing through the diaper, in which they leave a sediment like fine meal. At this stage of the disease the discharges become offensive, and the little one will gag whenever it has an operation from the bowels; the child will roll its head from side to side, the eyes being half closed during the sleep. These are marked indications for *Pod.* 200 or upward, which will relieve all the difficulties.

Pod. is the remedy in dysentery when the pain *precedes* the evacuation of mucus, with spots and streaks of blood, or diarrhoea of a hot, yellow, watery, undigested, offensive stool.

Pod. diarrhoea is worse in the morning; the pain precedes the evacuation, and is *relieved by pressure of the hands on the abdomen*.

Mr. H., had diarrhoea which was thin, and had the appearance of soap-suds; *pain preceding the evacuation relieved by pressure* on the abdomen; No pain during the evacuation. *Pod.* 200. No more diarrhoea.

Alice, age twenty months, has had diarrhoea for a week; is teething; discharge smells like carrion, is watery, and passes through the diaper leaving a doughy sediment. *Pod.* 200, two prescriptions relieved entirely.

Josie B., aged two years; diarrhoea of large, frothy stools; worse in the morning; peevish; pain before the discharge, which relieved him; cold, clammy skin, which is an indication for *Pod.* in diarrhoeas of children. He received six powders of this remedy, which cured.

Pod. pel. is indicated in prolapsus ani of children following debilitating morning diarrhoea. It should always be given in the high, or highest attenuations, in which form we have found it invaluable."

A Word Personal

Just here allow me to say, for the benefit of my friend Dr. I. H. Dix. (see The United States Medical Investigator, August 16th.) that from my understanding of Homoeopathy, as taught by Hahnemann in his Organon, I never expect my mind will pass through a course of reasoning sufficient to arrive at the conclusion that "Nitric acid, chemically pure," would save a patient suffering from diphtheria, when a high dilution would not, even if indicated by the totality of the symptoms. When I first knew Dr. Dix, I was a graduate of the Eclectic College, Cincinnati, but trying to practice Homoeopathy as best I could with the limited knowledge obtained from pseudo-Homoeopathic books and journals. I soon after became acquainted with C. Pearson, M. D., who advised me to attend lectures in Philadelphia - thanks to him! - where I graduated in 1866, and learned pure Homoeopathy from Hering, Lippe, Guernsey, Raue, and Frost. Since which time I have used nothing but the single remedy and the high dilution, as I can prove by a "multitude of witnesses."

Dr. Dix is a "tip-top good fellow," but hope he will not, without cause, attempt to cast a shadow of doubt upon my reputation as a pure Homoeopath. We *have* slept with the Doctor, but we thought he had been awake long enough to get over his intolerable hankering after Eclecticism. Wake up, Dix!" The world moves!"

(I. Dever, M.D., Dexter, Mich., About Podophyllum Peltatum Indications, The United States Medical Investigator vol. 12 (1875), p. 329-331)